

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SR-02 ORM-03 EUR-25 IO-14 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 141643Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6914

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 3-14-75

TAGS: PFOR US EG LE

SUBJ: ALLEGED NEW SCHEME FOR SUEZ CANAL DEVELOPMENT

1. LEBANESE DEPUTY RAYMOND EDDE RAISED QUESTION OF SUEZ CANAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AT MAR 11 MEETING OF FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, PRODUCING DOCUMENT WHICH HE ALLEGED WAS UNITED STATES PLAN TO RESETTLE 1.2 MILLION PALESTININA REFUGEES IN SINAI AS PART OF ME PEACE SETTLEMENT. EDDE DREW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO ONE ASPECT OF PLAN WHICH HE IMPLIED WAS SINISTER SCHEME TO SUPPLY NEW SUEZ CANAL AREA WITH 300 MILLION GALLONS OF WATER PER DAY FROM SOUTH LEBANON. HE FUTHER IMPLIED THAT THIS SCHEME MIGHT BE CONNECTED WITH PREVIOUS WARNING (MOSTLY ISSUED BY HIMSELF) THAT IRAEL PLANNING DIVERT LEBANESE WATERS. MOTIVE OF EDDE'S PRESENTATION WAS TO BACK UP HIS CHARGE THAT PRESENT GOL DOING LITTLE OR NOTHING TO PROTECT LEBANESE NATIONAL INTERESTS IN PERIOD OF FAST-MOVING CHANGE WHICH SEEMS LIE AHEAD IN MIDDLE EAST. HE CHALLENGED GOL TO PRODUCE CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL OF THIS SUEZ CANAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AND ALSO SAID HE AWAITING WORD FROM AMERICAN EMBASSY. IF AMERICNAS DENY THEY BEHIND SCHEME, EDDE SAID, IT WILL MEAN THAT USSR IS BEHIND IT.

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2. EDDE'S CHALLENGE HAS PRODUCED CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY IN LOCAL PRESS, INCLUDING OBSERVATION BY DAILY AL ANWAR THAT DOCUMENT HE PRODUCED BEFORE ASSEMBLY IS SAME AS THAT WHICH LONDON TIMES HAD REPORTED IN 1969 AS "FICTITIOUS SUSPICIOUS SCHEME TO BUILD NEW SUEZ CANAL." BASED ON REPRODUCTIONS OF VARIOUS PAGES OF DOCUMENT IN PRESS, IT IS CLEARLY OLD SCHEME PUSHED BY AMERICAN PROMOTER L.E. DETWILER AND HIS SUEZ INDUSTRIAL ZONE, LTD, WITH HEADQUARTERS ALLEGEDLY IN ZURICH. (IS THIS THE SAME INDIVIDUAL WHO OFFERED TO TAKE OVER FINANCING THE CONGO IN 1960?)

3. ACTING SECGEN OF LEBANESE FONOFFICE (FATTAL) HAS REQUESTED THAT

WE SUPPLY GOL WITH WHATEVER INFO WE CAN CONCERNING THIS PROPOSAL. EMBOFF TOLD FATTAL THAT SCHEME HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH USG, BUT THAT WE WOULD SEEK FURTHER INFO FROM DEPT AND EMBASSY CAIRO. FATTAL SAID GOL WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF ANYTHING WE CAN PROVIDE. WE HAVE MADE NO RPT NO PUBLIC COMMENT ON EDDE PRESENTATION AND DO NOT INTEND DO SO.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ANY INFO WHICH DEPT AND EMBASSY CAIRO BELIEVE WOULD BE USEFUL IN REPLYING TO FONOFFICE. GODLEY

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